



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

January 3, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T. Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

RESPONSE TO ENSURING FOOD SECURITY FOR YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE BOARD MOTION (ITEM NO. 3, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 13, 2011)

On December 13, 2011, by motion of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, with an amendment by Supervisor Antonovich, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the then Interim Directors of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop and implement a plan to ensure complete CalFresh applications are timely and successfully submitted on behalf of foster youth, ages 18-21, when dependency is terminated. Also, the CEO, DPSS, and DCFS are to report back quarterly on the County's improved rates of successfully enrolling aging-out foster youth into CalFresh and other programs.

It should be noted the amendment by Supervisor Antonovich directing the CEO, the then Interim Director of DCFS, and the Chief Probation Officer to develop a comprehensive resource guide of all food banks, food closets and public programs, for provision to all exiting youth; solicit donations of food store gift cards from the community and community foundations for distribution to youth in need; enhance the availability of nutritional food information and programs on budgeting, shopping, cost comparison and meal planning to aging-out youth; and develop an outcomes evaluation mechanism by which to measure the long-term impacts of each type of food security assistance resource upon the futures of Los Angeles County aging-out youth, is being led on a separate track by Harvey Kawasaki, Division Chief, Youth Development Services, DCFS.

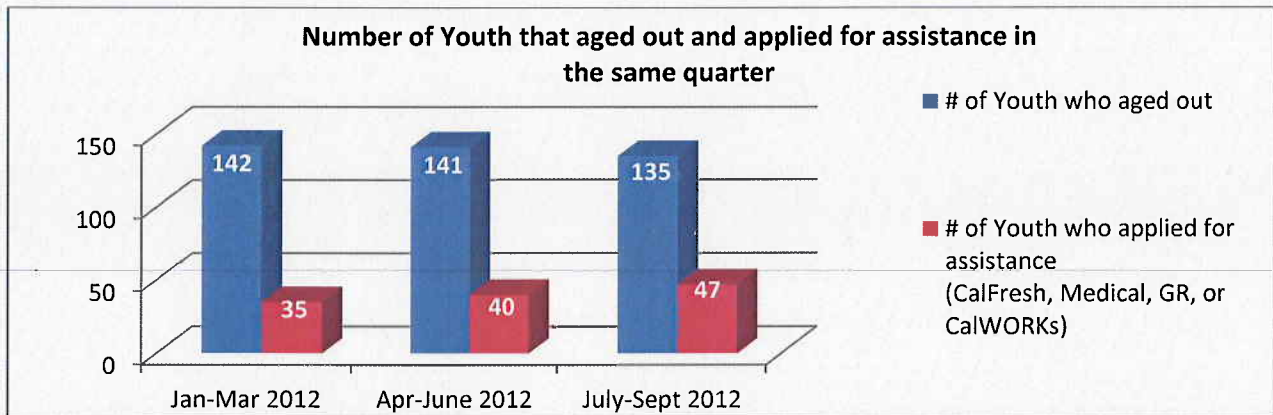
"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

**Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only**

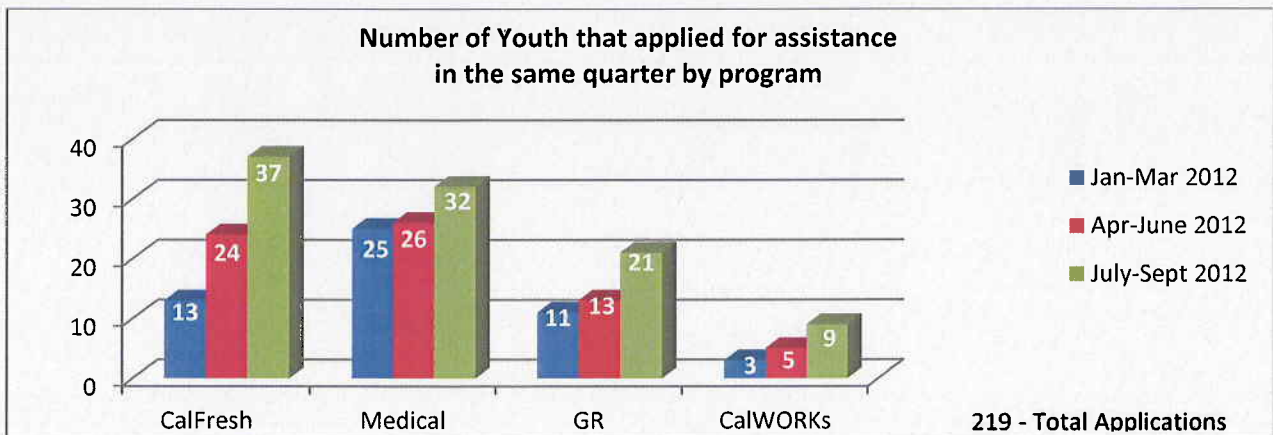
In response to the motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, a Work Group was established consisting of Board Deputies, CEO, DPSS, DCFS, Probation Staff, as well as foster youth community advocates.

The initial response to the Board dated June 25, 2012, reported 402 youth who aged out from July 2011 to September 2011. It should be noted the 402 reflected the total number of closed cases which included youth who have aged out, as well as youth who were reunited with their families. The current data has been revised to only reflect the number of youth who have aged out.

Based on the recommendation by the Work Group, a pilot program between DCFS, DPSS, and Probation was implemented on August 1, 2012. The goal of the pilot program is to ensure that aging-out youth apply for CalFresh and other programs and, if eligible, receive services. The following graphs and chart reflect the number of youth who aged out, applied, and successfully enrolled for assistance by program during the last three quarters.



The early success of the pilot program is evident in the graph below which reflects a substantial increase in the number of youth applying for each program.



The following table reflects the disposition of the applications received from foster youth who aged out from January 2012 through September 2012. It is important to note the reasons for applications being denied or terminated vary depending on the program. In the majority of cases when the CalFresh application was denied or terminated, the youth did not meet the household requirement or missed their intake interview.

Programs	Approved	%	Denied	%	Terminated	%	Pending	%	Total
CalFresh	43	58%	20	27%	8	11%	3	4%	74
MediCal	67	81%	9	11%	5	6%	2	2%	83
GR	10	22%	21	47%	13	29%	1	2%	45
CalWORKs	13	76%	1	6%	3	18%	0	0%	17
Total	133	61%	51	23%	29	13%	6	3%	219

*These numbers represent duplicate counts as one youth can apply for multiple programs.

The Departments will continue to work collaboratively to educate and assist these youth to ensure they enroll in programs which will help facilitate their successful transition toward independence. We anticipate the number of aging-out youth applying for these programs will continue to increase.

Effective immediately, DCFS will assume the responsibility of the quarterly report back to the Board on the County's improved rates of successfully enrolling aging-out youth in CalFresh and other programs. The next quarterly report back to the Board will be due on January 31, 2013.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365, or via email at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ
DS:MM:ljp

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Children and Family Services
Probation
Public Social Services
Alliance for Children's Rights
California Food Policy Advocate
California Grocers Association
California Youth Connection
Commission for Children and Families
Hunger Action Los Angeles
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Project Impact
Public Counsel
211LA County